



THE GOSPEL IN SCOTLAND

There Are Many Opportunities for Bearing Testimony.

The Country Well Provided With Literature on the Principles of Truth and Salvation.

From Elder Alex. Buchanan the "News" has received this communication, dated Glasgow, January 30:

As far as the progress of "Mormonism" in Scotland is concerned, the work is going on apace and we as humble missionaries feel to thank God that things are as well with us as they are. True, we are not constantly engaged baptizing new converts, but ample opportunity is afforded us from time to time to "preach the Gospel," and from this we derive considerable satisfaction. Our forte here is speaking on the street corners, as we believe this to be the most effective way of getting the Gospel before the people. During the past year 500 street meetings were held in Scotland, this meaning that many testimonies were borne, the same falling upon the ears of thousands of truly religious, honest-hearted people. Nor are these testimonies vain as many would fain believe; for in conversation with individuals from time to time it is not at all uncommon to hear them remark that thirty, forty or fifty years ago, as the case may be, they heard "Mormon" Elders preach in certain sections, and the words which they had spoken had been ringing in their ears ever since. This, to us, is proof positive that our work is not altogether fruitless and acts as an incentive to further effort that "this Gospel be preached in all the world for a witness before the end shall come."

The Scottish people do not dull their "palm with entertainment of such new-fangled, unheeded comrades of Shakespeare's time, but rather eye them with suspicion until such time as they have "their adoption tried," then grapple them to their souls "with hooks of steel." This being an inherent characteristic of the Scottish folk, it should not be difficult to imagine the peculiar position a "Mormon" missionary is placed in in tracing from door to door. The art of getting conversations for here it is an art—not easily acquired as many "yellow-jackets" would have it—must be acquired with good results as we would like to see it. During the year over 150,000 tracts were distributed in Scotland, this meaning 50,000 strangers' houses visited, and in all not more than 5 per cent of the population were willing to lend a listening ear to a brief outline of Gospel principles, or elicited a particular desire to make any special inquiry. The truth is, Scotland is "traced-out" or "traced," as many have it, so much so in fact, as to make the receipt of Gospel literature so commonplace that it arouses within the recipient no great desire for investigation. It reminds one of a story told of a lady, a visitor who made a call one evening on the head of the household was at home. The gentleman laid aside his pipe while the lady recited texts and sang a hymn. When she rose to go she handed the gentleman a tract to read at his leisure. The gentleman exhibited his politeness by rising to open the door for her, and found to his surprise that the stair case was still unlit. "Tut, tut," he said, "that stair's no safe; wait till I light the gas!" Then the gentleman, who had been so polite, gave him a light, and the gentleman twisted up into a torch for her enlightenment. The gas was lit, and the lady departed in some doubt if she had gathered anyone into the fold that night.

The illustration may be overdrawn, but to the mind of many an Elder it solves the problem of the disposition of many a Gospel tract handed in for the delectation, spiritual, of the gentleman, and his entire family.

A word for the ladies before closing. Our dear sisters, assigned to this section, are doing yeoman service for the cause, which they have espoused. In the past eighteen months, and expressed their labors have resulted in the making of many friends and the consequent obliteration of a vast amount of prejudice of well-educated people concerning the Latter-day Saints. These individuals, prominent in social and church circles, are now among our warmest friends, and lose no opportunity in disabusing the minds of their associates of the peculiarities formerly entertained concerning the "Mormon" people, their customs and practices. Occasionally our sisters are called upon to address Bands of Hope, Boys' Brigades, etc., and in this way an impression is made which will some day count for good, and among a class of people, too, whose ranks it would have been decidedly difficult for the Elders to gain access to. Truly, our lady missionaries are doing a noble work and they in Scotland have our faith, prayers and warmest support in the work which they have so valiantly engaged in. We feel to say in our hearts, "God bless them!"

Need I say the Deseret News is much appreciated? Derive us of it and listen to our protest.

IN VIRGINIA.

A Profitable Conference Held at Richmond.

Elder Carl A. Miller sends this report dated Richmond, Va., Feb. 15:

A conference was held on Dec. 15 and 16, in Monticello hall, located on the principal street of Richmond. During our conference the weather was beautiful, when taking into consideration the season of the year.

On Saturday morning the Elders met in a body, for the purpose of receiving instructions from the president. The

meeting was turned into the hands of the Elders, and the time was spent in bearing testimony.

The next morning (Sunday, Dec. 16) Elder Ben E. Rich made his appearance. At 11 a.m. the people commenced to gather, and at the appointed time the meeting commenced. The speakers were Elders Ellis, Heninger, Fetheringham, W. Rich, and Isaac Clegg, and each one in his turn spoke on the mission of the Elders of Israel.

Elder Rich now followed with an eloquent address upon different principles, in the afternoon we met for the last time. The crowd was somewhat larger.

The speakers were Elders A. W. Larson, John D. Morrill, followed by the president of the conference, Heber S. Olson. Elder Ben E. Rich again favored the public with a discourse.

After the services we could hear the people speak of the eloquence displayed during the conference. The Elders are now pushing the work in the larger cities of the State, under the management of Elder Heber S. Olson, from Fairview.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.

Good Impressions Created During the Several Meetings.

Elder C. R. Humphreys writes from Charleston, S. C., Feb. 16:

The South Carolina Conference was held in Charleston, February 9 and 10. Thirty Elders arrived in the city February 8. All seemed to be in excellent spirits and enjoying good health.

We met in Priesthood meeting Saturday at 10 o'clock. We had hoped to see the smiling countenance of our president, Elder Ben E. Rich, but owing to urgent business elsewhere he was unable to be with us.

Elder Elton, of Chattanooga, met with us and conveyed the instructions and wishes of Elder Rich to us.

Sunday morning, at 9 o'clock, the Saints and Elders met in testimony meeting.

At 11 o'clock, a public meeting was held with a fair attendance. Elder C. R. Humphreys made the opening address and was followed by Elder C. G. Anderson who spoke upon the method of interpreting the Scriptures.

Elder D. H. Elton was then introduced to the audience and spoke in a plain and forcible manner upon the principles of the Gospel.

Another meeting was held at 3 o'clock with a good audience. Elder Rich, who was followed by Elder Elton who emphasized the necessity of the children of men following the same doctrine which was anciently preached to the people.

At night a number of people came out to satisfy their curiosity as to what our views are concerning the marriage relations. Elder Elton reviewed briefly our past attitudes and beliefs to the entire satisfaction of all present.

The Elders left for their various fields of labor feeling bountifully repaid for their long and weary walks to conference.

AN IOWA CONFERENCE.

The Semi-Annual Gathering Held at Des Moines.

Religious and Appointments—Large Audiences at the Meetings—A Good Spirit Prevailing.

This conference report is dated Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 14, and signed by Elders Anthony M. Hansen, Willis A. Smith, and Elisha J. Duke, conference presidency, and R. W. Stoker, secretary.

On Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 2 and 3, the Elders labored in the State of Iowa held their semi-annual conference at Des Moines.

At the conference held six months previous, four Elders were appointed to labor in Des Moines, which was then comparatively a new field; they were so successful in making friends and converts that when conference was announced again Des Moines was the most suitable place to convene.

A thriving Sunday school and a M. I. A. have been organized, and a hall has been rented in which the Saints and friends meet.

On Saturday at 10 a. m. the Saints and Elders met in testimony and testimony meeting.

Elder Louis A. Kelsch arrived at 1:15 p. m., and at 2 p. m. the Elders met in Priesthood meeting. Elder Kelsch presiding. Two of the Elders were released, viz: Nephi Otteson and John W. Jensen. Elders Willis A. Smith and Elisha J. Duke were sustained as counselors.

Elder R. W. Stoker was sustained as secretary of the conference.

The Elders gave an account of their previous fields and expressed their pleasure in regard to the assignments, both of companions and places of labor, after which Elders Boyer and Hayes of the Nebraska conference, spoke a short time, encouraging the Elders to continue in their good work. The General and local authorities were sustained.

At 7:30 p. m. Saturday the first general meeting was held. A large and appreciative audience was in attendance. Saints and friends from all parts of the State and some from adjoining States had come to enjoy the spirit which always accompanies such gatherings.

Elder Hansen was the first speaker. He welcomed all the Saints and expressed his pleasure of seeing so many present, after which he stated the object of the conference.

Elders Hayes of the Nebraska conference, occupied the remainder of the time. He spoke upon the salvation of mankind.

Sunday morning on account of the stormy weather, the audience was not so large, but the same spirit prevailed.

Elder Nephi Otteson addressed the congregation. He said that although his labors as a missionary in Iowa were released, he did not feel that he had been released from missionary work in a general way; neither did he hope to be, because he had learned to love the work, and with the spirit of God he would endeavor to promote truth to every opportunity.

A feature of the meeting was the quartette, "Zion Prospects, All is Well," sung by Elder Terry and companions.

Elder Kelsch then spoke. He said in

part: "It is not enough to believe in the revelations of God, the Book of Mormon, and the words of the prophets, but we must put ourselves in a condition to live up to every word and requirement spoken by the Prophets of God."

On Sunday evening Elder H. Lee Boyer, president of the Nebraska conference, addressed the congregation.

Brother Harvey H. Cliff of Provo, who is here attending college, followed with some very valuable instructions.

Elder Jos. F. Thomas of Colorado, former president of the Nebraska conference, spoke here on business, was asked to speak. He did so by relating some of his missionary experience and encouraging the Elders in their work.

The following day the good sisters and Elders had prepared for a social gathering. The program consisted of songs, relations, instrumental music, etc., after which we partook of a bounteous lunch.

After the repast Elder Kelsch left, but the remainder of the party lingered to enjoy themselves talking and singing.

The only feature of regret was that two of our number were to leave us soon, to return home. But we all join in wishing them a happy return and may the blessings of God attend them in their future labors.

The conference has had its effects, as eight souls have united with the Church the past week.

The "News" is always welcome, and is appreciated by all the Elders, as well as the Saints and investigators, who anxiously await its arrival. It is a power for good, and a great aid to the Elders in their warfare against error.

NOTABLE CASE OF HEALING

Manifestation of the Power of God Through His Servants.

A Gentleman Who Had Been Sick for Many Months Immediately Restored to Health.

The following account is sent us by Elder C. R. Humphreys in a letter dated Charleston, S. C., Feb. 15:

The first of the year Elder Karren and I entered the historic old city of Charleston for the purpose of preaching the Gospel to its inhabitants who hitherto have been quite inaccessible because of the prejudice existing in the hearts of the city officials.

We visited the mayor and gained permission from him to visit and tract the business houses of the city only.

We fairly began our labors and were received very kindly, with few exceptions, when the opposing force entered upon the scene. While canvassing we were accompanied by an officer and asked to accompany him to the guard house, which we willingly did. Upon arriving there we learned from the conversation of the chief of police that the mayor evidently had changed his mind, or forgotten the permission he gave us to work the city.

We kindly asked for a hearing before the mayor, which was given us, but without any satisfaction.

That we should not deliver our message to the people seemed to be the determination of the officials.

A Methodist, an earnest investigator of our doctrine, had witnessed under the administration of his sister. He asked us to go with him and visit a sick man, a member of his church, named Phetman.

We complied with his wishes and found him possessed of great faith that he could be healed by the power of God according to His promises.

He had been on his bed for eight months and could not move his limbs. He had been unable to move on the bed without assistance.

We administered to him according to his request. In less than five minutes after the administration of the principles of our faith, he was able to sit up in bed.

He was able to walk with crutches and now is steadily improving.

The Rev. Mr. Harley, his preacher, hearing of his healing, called in to see him and upon being told that he was healed, he released him from his duties.

The "Mormon" Elders Mr. Harley began to abuse him and wage war against us. He also said, "If God heals you through the 'Mormon' Elders that God is not my God."

He said the many arm of man is uplifted against the work of God, it falls short of its purpose and God's power is made triumphant.

Mr. Harley is making many friends for us and is assisting us in getting the Gospel before the honest hearted.

CONFERENCE REPORT.

A Profitable Gathering at St. Louis, Mo.

The subjoined report is dated St. Louis, Mo., and signed by Elders W. L. Waite and Chas. N. Maughan:

The Southern Illinois conference met in Fraternal Hall, this city, Feb. 7th. Elder Louis A. Kelsch, of the Northern States mission, the twenty Elders of the conference, together with numerous Saints and friends were in attendance.

Conference President Elder Wm. L. Waite called the meeting to order, and stated the object of our meeting.

Elder A. M. Oakes spoke on the principles of the Gospel and the necessity of obeying them. Elder E. J. Dalrymple was the next speaker. His subject was revelation. The remainder of the time was taken up by Elder Kelsch, who spoke on the magnitude of the Latter-day work.

At 10:30 a. m. of the following day, all Elders met in Priesthood meeting, where we received our assignments and companions, reported our labors in the past and expressed our feelings in regard to the work. All felt well and determined to do their duty. Elder Kelsch gave valuable instructions.

In the evening another public meeting was held. Elders B. W. Newell, F. G. Newell and Kelsch were the speakers. A notable feature of our services was the singing. Elder W. H. Wilson with sweet voice sang the solo entitled, "Come, ye Saints, and sing with me."

Sister Theo. Martin rendered in her usual artistic manner, "The Holy City." Our organist, Miss Blanche Martin, acquitted herself nobly. The conference meetings were fairly well attended, con-

sidering the inclement weather. Among the visiting Saints were Brother, and Sister Schmitt, who had come seventy-five miles to be present.

Our work here is progressing nicely. We have a Sunday school organized with forty members enrolled, and all experienced joy and happiness in meeting together for the purpose of the sacrament, and studying the commandments of the Lord.

The "News" comes regularly and is a potent factor in disseminating the truth.

Thankful for the Gospel.

Elder Jas. H. Sullivan, of Joseph, Sevier county, in a letter dated February 16, says that four months ago he left his home in North Carolina to join the people in Utah. At first he felt homesick, he says, but now he is perfectly satisfied and feels that he has met his Father for the privilege he had of coming to Zion. He concludes his letter as follows:

I want to bear my humble testimony to all that may read these few words, that surely the Lord has spoken from heaven in this day and age and established His Kingdom, never to be torn asunder again. The judgments of God will soon be poured out upon the nations of the earth. I wish to say to all my North Carolina friends who may read these words, that I still remember them. Accept my testimony and prepare for the coming of the great day of the Lord.

ENJOYING HIS LABORS.

Some Persecution is Met With, but No Serious Opposition.

Elder Jethro D. Brown sends this communication from Hartman, Miss. February 8:

I am enjoying my labors in the mission field, although we are few in number and meeting with little success. I have been here for some time, and nearly all the honest-hearted have been gathered in the fold. But now and then we find one that accepts the glad message, and when we do it gives us confidence. I have been met with a little persecution on my travels, but it only makes me enjoy the sweet and caused me to humble myself and depend more on the Lord. I will relate an incident that occurred the other night while my companion and I were out on a mission.

We were holding meeting with a family at a little saw-mill town called Boxterville. We held a meeting there and while we were together some of the adversary's servants came to disturb us. They made some noise, but I was not scared, and never came in the house. We appointed another meeting for the next night and we had a large crowd, and a good meeting, and were unmolested.

The "News" is a welcome visitor and much appreciated.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES

Elder E. M. Orme, of Tooele, Tooele county, returned on the 14th of this month from the Eastern States mission.

He was set apart for this field on the 10th day of May, 1899. He has been laboring in the Maryland conference, the first eight months as a traveling Elder. Then he was appointed first counselor to Elder E. M. Orme, and held this position until last August, when he was appointed president of the conference.

He says he has had an enjoyable time, and that the prospects are encouraging. He had been released somewhat earlier, on account of the sickness of his mother, who, however, at present is recovering from her illness.

Elder Philip Quayle, of Treasuraton, Bannock county, Idaho, reports his return, on the 18th of the present month, from the British mission, for which he was set apart on the 15th day of November, 1898. He has been laboring in the Liverpool conference. While there he enjoyed good health. He crossed the ocean in the Commonwealth and had a nice trip.

Elder P. A. Agrean, of Harrisville, Weber county, returned on the 19th of this month from a mission to the Northern States. He was set apart on the 13th day of October, 1898. His field of labor has been in the Northern Illinois conference. He states that he had an enjoyable mission, and made some friends while traveling from place to place.

Elder John W. Jensen, of Hyrum, Cache county, returned on the 16th of this month from a mission to the Northern States. He was set apart on the 9th day of November, 1898. He spent all his time in the State of Iowa, where he says the mission is prosperous.

Here is another instance of a man whom the Lord visited and conferred divine authority upon, and the children of men should be blessed, or to curse them and they should be cursed. In accordance with the authority, Abraham blessed his son Isaac. Isaac blessed his son Jacob. Jacob blessed his sons. And the Lord said, "I will be with thee, and thou shalt be blessed."

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee. And it shall be a curse to all families of the earth who curse thee."

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Power and Authority Of the Priesthood.

Discourse delivered at the General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Saturday Morning, October 6, 1900, by

ELDER JOHN W. TAYLOR.

Binding, Sealing and Blessing Power of the Priesthood—Patriarchal Office Not Always Appreciated—Every Authoritative Change of Officers Should be Cheerfully Accepted—Example of Hyrum Smith.

My dear brethren and sisters: I humbly pray that our Father who is in Heaven will bless me with a portion of His Holy Spirit this afternoon, that what I shall say may be in accordance with His mind and will. I feel to bear testimony to the truth of all that I have heard during this conference. I have felt so much like we always feel, I suppose, at our conferences—that this is one of the best conferences that I have ever attended.

There is a question that I would like to speak to you upon a little. It seems to be very much in line with the remarks of several of the previous speakers. To commence with, I desire to make a quotation that was made by Elder Clavison yesterday. It is the words of our Lord and Savior to Peter, (Matt. 16, 13-19), the presiding Apostle, after Peter had received the revelation from God that Jesus was the Christ.

Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?

"And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist; some Elias; and others, Jeremiah, or some of the prophets."

"He saith unto them, but whom say ye that I am?"

"And Simon Peter answered and said, thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona; for flesh and blood hath not revealed unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

"And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

"And I will give unto thee the